

Senate, April 6, 1998. The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. HARP, 10th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) Each institution of higher  
2 learning licensed or accredited under section  
3 10a-34 of the general statutes to offer a degree  
4 qualifying a person for licensure in medicine,  
5 advanced practice nursing, psychology, clinical  
6 social work, professional counseling or marital  
7 and family therapy or as a registered nurse or a  
8 physician assistant shall require each person  
9 receiving such a degree to have received credit in  
10 a course of instruction on alcohol and substance  
11 abuse prevention, screening, assessment and  
12 referral.

13 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) Each hospital licensed by  
14 the Department of Public Health as a short-term  
15 general hospital, outpatient surgical facility or  
16 outpatient clinic shall include in the record of  
17 each trauma patient a notation indicating the  
18 extent and outcome of screening for alcohol and  
19 substance abuse.

20 (b) Each such hospital shall establish  
21 protocols for screening patients for alcohol and  
22 substance abuse and shall annually submit to the  
23 Departments of Public Health and Mental Health and

24 Addiction Services a copy of such protocols and a  
25 report on their implementation.

26 Sec. 3. (NEW) The Department of Mental Health  
27 and Addiction Services, after consultation with  
28 the Department of Public Health, shall assist each  
29 hospital required to conduct alcohol and substance  
30 abuse screening pursuant to section 2 of this act  
31 with the development and implementation of alcohol  
32 and substance abuse screening protocols.

33 Sec. 4. (NEW) The Department of Mental Health  
34 and Addiction Services, after consultation with  
35 the Department of Public Health and health care  
36 providers, shall develop model continuing  
37 education standards for alcohol and substance  
38 screening, assessment and referral, as required in  
39 sections 20-13, 20-12b, 20-17, 20-93, 20-94a,  
40 20-191a, 20-195c and 20-195o of the general  
41 statutes, as amended by this act, and section 3 of  
42 public act 97-311, as amended by this act.

43 Sec. 5. Section 20-13 of the general statutes  
44 is repealed and the following is substituted in  
45 lieu thereof:

46 (a) Any person who has complied with the  
47 provisions of section 20-10 or section 20-12, and  
48 who files the proof thereof with the Department of  
49 Public Health, shall receive from the department a  
50 license, which shall include a statement that the  
51 person named therein is qualified to practice  
52 medicine and surgery.

53 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF SECTION  
54 20-10 OR 20-12, EACH PERSON APPLYING FOR LICENSE  
55 RENEWAL SHALL ATTEST TO HAVING COMPLETED  
56 CONTINUING EDUCATION ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
57 PREVENTION, SCREENING, ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL.  
58 THE DEPARTMENT MAY WAIVE THE CONTINUING EDUCATION  
59 REQUIREMENT FOR GOOD CAUSE. THE DEPARTMENT MAY  
60 ADOPT REGULATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
61 PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 54, TO ESTABLISH SUCH  
62 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.

63 Sec. 6. Section 20-12b of the general  
64 statutes is amended by adding subsection (e) as  
65 follows:

66 (NEW) (e) Notwithstanding any other provision  
67 of this section, each person applying for license  
68 renewal shall attest to having completed  
69 continuing education on substance abuse  
70 prevention, screening, assessment and referral.  
71 The department may waive the continuing education

72 requirement for good cause. The department may  
73 adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
74 provisions of chapter 54, to establish such  
75 continuing education requirements.

76 Sec. 7. Section 20-17 of the general statutes  
77 is repealed and the following is substituted in  
78 lieu thereof:

79 (a) No person shall engage in the practice of  
80 osteopathy until he has obtained a license from  
81 the Department of Public Health or until he has  
82 been issued a permit by the Department of Public  
83 Health in accordance with section 20-18a. No  
84 person shall receive a license until he has passed  
85 an examination prescribed by the Department of  
86 Public Health with the advice and consent of the  
87 Osteopathic Examining Board, except as provided in  
88 section 20-18, nor until he has filed with said  
89 department a statement subscribed to by him, which  
90 shall be made upon a blank furnished by said  
91 department and shall set forth his name, age,  
92 place of birth, residence, the name of the  
93 osteopathic college or school of which he is a  
94 graduate and the date of graduation, with such  
95 other information as the blank form requires. All  
96 applications to the department shall be in writing  
97 signed by the applicant and upon blanks furnished  
98 by the department, which shall set forth such  
99 facts concerning the applicant as the department  
100 requires. No person shall be eligible for  
101 examination under the provisions of this section  
102 unless the department finds, from evidence  
103 satisfactory to it, presented by the applicant,  
104 that he (1) has been a resident student in one or  
105 more osteopathic colleges or schools, approved by  
106 the board with the consent of the Commissioner of  
107 Public Health, during not less than four graded  
108 courses of not less than thirty-two weeks each,  
109 and has received the degree of doctor of  
110 osteopathy therefrom; if a graduate from an  
111 approved osteopathic college or school subsequent  
112 to July 1, 1933, has, in addition, completed a  
113 course of study in chemistry, physics and biology  
114 equivalent to one college year in a college or  
115 scientific school approved by the board with the  
116 consent of said commissioner; and, if a graduate  
117 from an approved osteopathic college or school  
118 subsequent to July 1, 1947, has completed before  
119 beginning the study of osteopathy a course of

120 study of two academic years of not less than  
121 thirty-two weeks' duration each in a college or  
122 scientific school approved by the board with the  
123 consent of said commissioner, which course  
124 included the study of chemistry, physics and  
125 general biology; and (2) has successfully  
126 completed not less than two years of training as a  
127 resident physician in a program approved by the  
128 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical  
129 Education or approved by The American Osteopathic  
130 Association, or an equivalent program approved by  
131 the board with the consent of the Department of  
132 Public Health. Any person who has passed the  
133 prescribed examination shall, upon filing such  
134 statement as herein provided with the Department  
135 of Public Health, receive from said department a  
136 license, which license shall include a statement  
137 that the person named therein is qualified to  
138 practice osteopathy. Passing scores for the  
139 examination required under this section shall be  
140 established by the department with the consent of  
141 the board. The Department of Public Health shall  
142 administer such examination under the supervision  
143 of the board.

144 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF  
145 SUBSECTION (a) OF THIS SECTION, EACH PERSON  
146 APPLYING FOR LICENSE RENEWAL SHALL ATTEST TO  
147 HAVING COMPLETED CONTINUING EDUCATION ON SUBSTANCE  
148 ABUSE PREVENTION, SCREENING, ASSESSMENT AND  
149 REFERRAL. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WAIVE THE CONTINUING  
150 EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR GOOD CAUSE. THE  
151 DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE  
152 WITH THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 54, TO ESTABLISH  
153 SUCH CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.

154 Sec. 8. Section 20-93 of the general statutes  
155 is repealed and the following is substituted in  
156 lieu thereof:

157 (a) Any person who shows to the satisfaction  
158 of the department that he or she holds a degree,  
159 diploma or certificate from an accredited  
160 institution evidencing satisfactory completion of  
161 a nursing program approved by said board with the  
162 consent of the Commissioner of Public Health shall  
163 be eligible for examination for licensure as a  
164 registered nurse upon payment of a fee of ninety  
165 dollars, the subjects of which examination shall  
166 be determined by said department with the advice  
167 and consent of the board. If such applicant passes

168 such examination said department shall issue to  
169 such applicant a license to practice nursing in  
170 this state.

171 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF  
172 SUBSECTION (a) OF THIS SECTION, EACH PERSON  
173 APPLYING FOR LICENSE RENEWAL SHALL ATTEST TO  
174 HAVING COMPLETED CONTINUING EDUCATION ON SUBSTANCE  
175 ABUSE PREVENTION, SCREENING, ASSESSMENT AND  
176 REFERRAL. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WAIVE THE CONTINUING  
177 EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR GOOD CAUSE. THE  
178 DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE  
179 WITH THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 54, TO ESTABLISH  
180 SUCH CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.

181 Sec. 9. Section 20-94a of the general  
182 statutes is amended by adding subsection (e) as  
183 follows:

184 (NEW) (e) Notwithstanding any other provision  
185 of this section, each person applying for license  
186 renewal shall attest to having completed  
187 continuing education on substance abuse  
188 prevention, screening, assessment and referral.  
189 The department may waive the continuing education  
190 requirement for good cause. The department may  
191 adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
192 provisions of chapter 54, to establish such  
193 continuing education requirements.

194 Sec. 10. Section 20-191a of the general  
195 statutes is repealed and the following is  
196 substituted in lieu thereof:

197 (a) Each license issued under this chapter  
198 shall be renewed annually in accordance with the  
199 provisions of section 19a-88, AS AMENDED. Thirty  
200 days prior to the expiration date of each license  
201 under said section 19a-88, the department shall  
202 mail to the last-known address of each licensed  
203 psychologist an application for renewal in such  
204 form as said department determines. Each such  
205 application, on or before such expiration date,  
206 shall be returned to said department, together  
207 with a fee of the professional services fee for  
208 class I, as defined in section 33-182l, and the  
209 department shall thereupon issue a renewal  
210 license. In the event of failure of a psychologist  
211 to apply for such renewal license by such  
212 expiration date, he may so apply subject to the  
213 provisions of subsection (b) of said section  
214 19a-88.

215       (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF  
216 SUBSECTION (a) OF THIS SECTION, EACH PERSON  
217 APPLYING FOR LICENSE RENEWAL SHALL ATTEST TO  
218 HAVING COMPLETED CONTINUING EDUCATION ON SUBSTANCE  
219 ABUSE PREVENTION, SCREENING, ASSESSMENT AND  
220 REFERRAL. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WAIVE THE CONTINUING  
221 EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR GOOD CAUSE. THE  
222 DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE  
223 WITH THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 54, TO ESTABLISH  
224 SUCH CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.

225       Sec. 11. Section 20-195c of the general  
226 statutes, as amended by section 2 of public act  
227 97-213 and section 18 of public act 97-311, is  
228 amended by adding subsection (d) as follows:

229       (NEW) (d) Notwithstanding any other provision  
230 of this section, each person applying for license  
231 renewal shall attest to having completed  
232 continuing education on substance abuse  
233 prevention, screening, assessment and referral.  
234 The department may waive the continuing education  
235 requirement for good cause. The department may  
236 adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
237 provisions of chapter 54, to establish such  
238 continuing education requirements.

239       Sec. 12. Section 20-195o of the general  
240 statutes, as amended by section 10 of public act  
241 97-213, is amended by adding subsection (d) as  
242 follows:

243       (NEW) (d) Notwithstanding any other provision  
244 of this section, each person applying for license  
245 renewal shall attest to having completed  
246 continuing education on substance abuse  
247 prevention, screening, assessment and referral.  
248 The department may waive the continuing education  
249 requirement for good cause. The department may  
250 adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
251 provisions of chapter 54, to establish such  
252 continuing education requirements.

253       Sec. 13. Section 3 of public act 97-311 is  
254 amended by adding subsection (c) as follows:

255       (NEW) (c) Notwithstanding any other provision  
256 of this section, each person applying for license  
257 renewal shall attest to having completed  
258 continuing education on substance abuse  
259 prevention, screening, assessment and referral.  
260 The department may waive the continuing education  
261 requirement for good cause. The department may  
262 adopt regulations, in accordance with the

263 provisions of chapter 54, to establish such  
264 continuing education requirements.

265 PH COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 23 NAY 0 JFS

\* \* \* \* \*

"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER sSB 472**

STATE IMPACT	Cost, Indeterminate Revenue Loss, see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None
STATE AGENCY(S)	Departments of Public Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, University of Connecticut

**EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:**

Passage of this bill will result in an SFY 1998-99 cost to the Department of Public Health of \$104,850. This will result from the addition of three positions (a Nurse Consultant, a Licensing Examination Assistant, and a Clerk Typist) at a three-quarter year cost of approximately \$92,700. These staff are needed to initiate procedures to review continuing education documentation submitted by persons seeking license renewal, conduct investigations of persons out of compliance with these requirements, and provide notification to those individuals who fail to attest to the continuing education requirements. Also included is \$8,400 in computer costs and \$3,750 in postage, duplicating and other expenses.

In SFY 1999-00 and subsequent fiscal years, the annualized cost of this initiative to the DPH will be \$128,545, to include \$123,545 in personnel costs and \$5,000 in duplication, postage and other expenses, as one-time computer costs will not recur.

To the extent that the training and continuing education requirements contained in the bill discourage



persons from applying for initial licensure and/or renewing licenses for the affected professions, a potential workload decrease and indeterminate revenue loss to the State will result. The workload decrease would result from the DPH processing fewer licensure applications. The revenue loss would occur because the DPH would collect license fees from fewer individuals.

The requirement that students in higher education institutions offering degree programs in certain health fields earn credit in a course on alcohol and substance abuse screening, prevention, assessment and referral results in a cost to the constituent units of higher education offering such programs. Some degree programs already meet the standard, others offer coursework in the area only as an elective. Mandating that such coursework be completed rather than being elective would require additional teaching staff. Statewide between \$200,000 to \$600,000 would be needed to provide students with such courses.

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) will incur minimal costs related to the implementation of this bill. The requirement that DMHAS develop model continuing education standards will result in increased administrative costs. However, these costs are anticipated to be minimal and therefore can be absorbed within anticipated budgetary resources. The requirement that DMHAS assist hospitals with the development and implementation of alcohol and substance abuse screening protocols also has a minimal administrative cost that can be absorbed within anticipated resources.

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#### OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sSB 472

#### **AN ACT CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

**SUMMARY:** This bill requires certain health practitioners seeking license renewal to attest that they have completed continuing education on substance abuse prevention, screening, assessment, and referral. This applies to physicians and surgeons, osteopaths,

psychologists, advanced practice registered nurses, registered nurses, physician assistants, clinical social workers, marital and family therapists, and professional counselors. The Department of Public Health (DPH) can adopt regulations to establish the continuing education requirements and may waive the requirement for good cause.

The bill also requires (1) students in higher education institutions offering degree programs for the health professions named above to earn credit in a course on alcohol and substance abuse prevention, screening, assessment, and referral as part of their degree; (2) each short-term general hospital, outpatient surgical facility, and outpatient clinic to include in the record of each trauma patient a notation indicating the extent and outcome of screening for alcohol and substance abuse; and (3) each short-term general hospital to establish protocols for screening patients for alcohol and substance abuse and annually submit them and an implementation report to DPH and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

#### **FURTHER EXPLANATION**

##### **Hospital Screenings**

The bill requires DMHAS, after consultation with DPH, to assist hospitals with the development and implementation of the required alcohol and substance abuse screening protocols.

##### **Model Continuing Education Standards**

The bill directs DMHAS, after consultation with DPH and health care providers, to develop model continuing education standards for alcohol and substance abuse screening, assessment, and referral as required for the health practitioners listed above.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23      Nay 0